

REMARKS

Claims 9 - 15 are now pending in the application. Claims 9 and 13 are amended. Claim 11 is cancelled. Claim 15 is added. No new matter is presented. The above amendments and the following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome each rejection raised by the Examiner and to place the application in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

Claim 13 is objected to for containing informalities. Claim 13 is amended to more clearly recite the features of the claimed invention. No new matter is presented. In view of these amendments, Applicants request the withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 5,489,930). The Examiner takes the position that Anderson teach and/or suggests all the features recited in claims 9-14. Applicants respectfully disagree.

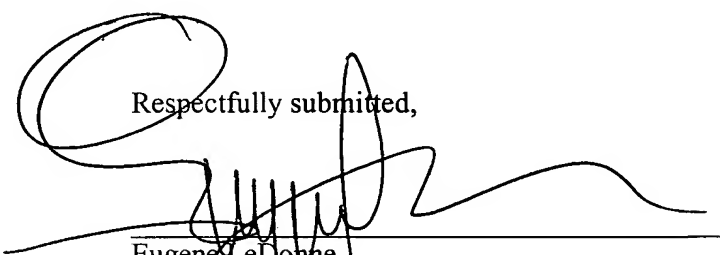
Anderson is directed to an internal ink filter located within an ink jet printer head that is formed by overlapping filter portions of two laminated plates that comprise the print head. Anderson discloses a tapered manifold 54 that is divided by internal filter 12 into two parallel, planar portions, a pre-filter portion 60, and a post-filter portion 62. Ink flows from the pre-filter portion 60 of tapered ink supply manifold 54 through internal filter 12 and into the post-filter portion 62. Ink flows from the pre-filter portion 60 of tapered ink supply manifold 54 through internal filter 12 and into the post-filter portion 62. The ink flows from the post-filter portion 62 through an ink supply channel 68, through a pressure chamber ink inlet 70 and into an ink pressure chamber 72.

Although Anderson discloses a pre-filter portion and a post filter portion, it is submitted that Anderson does not teach or suggest all the features of the claimed invention. Specifically, Anderson fails to teach or suggest that the first space is greater than the second space in the x-direction. As illustrated in Figure 4 of the present invention, the first space V1 is longer than the second space V2 in the x-direction. In contrast to the claimed invention, Anderson illustrates that the space 60 and 62 as being the same distance in the x-direction. As a result, it is submitted that Anderson fails to teach or suggest that the first space is greater in the x-direction than the second space. Therefore, by this amendment, the features of claims 9 are neither taught nor suggested by the applied reference. In view of this distinction, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 10-14 are dependent upon claim 9. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 10-14 recite patentable subject for at least the reasons mentioned above. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits claims 9-14 recite subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied references. The specification is amended. Claims 9 and 13 are amended. Claim 15 is added. No new matter is presented. Thus, for the reasons presented above, claims 9-15 are believed by Applicant to define patentable subject matter and should be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. A Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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